

Fact Sheet

Well Maintenance

April 2011

Ontario's Wells regulation (O. Reg. 903) requires a well owner to maintain the well to prevent surface water and other foreign materials from entering it. This requirement helps to prevent contamination of the well water and groundwater.

A well owner and any person who works around a well must ensure that the minimum casing height, which is usually 40 cm above the surface of the ground, is maintained.

Ongoing observation is an important part of maintaining a well. The well owner should observe on an ongoing basis, the state of the well, the pumping and other equipment associated with the well, and the surrounding area to ensure they are in good condition and the well is operating properly. In some instances, it may be necessary to repair or rehabilitate the well to prevent it from deteriorating. See the technical bulletins on Wells Regulation – Well Maintenance and Wells Regulation – Well Repairs and Other Alterations for more information.

Under certain circumstances the Wells regulation requires a well owner to immediately abandon the well. See the fact sheet called Well Abandonment and the technical bulletin called Wells Regulation – Well Abandonment: When to Plug and Seal a Well.

There are many dangers to consider when maintaining and repairing a well. Work on wells should be done by a licensed experienced well technician with the correct class of licence or who works for a licensed well contractor.

Learn more

- [Technical Bulletin: Wells Regulation – Well Maintenance](#)
- [Technical Bulletin: Wells Regulation – Well Repairs and Other Alterations](#)
- [Well Abandonment fact sheet](#)
- [Technical Bulletin: Wells Regulation – Well Abandonment: When to Plug and Seal a Well](#)
- [Water Supply Wells – Requirements and Best Management Practices](#)
- [Wells regulation](#)
- [Ontario Water Resources Act](#)

Contact us

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Notice: This fact sheet is being provided for information purposes only and is not intended, nor should it be construed as providing legal advice in any circumstances. The applicable legislation including the Ontario Water Resources Act and Regulation 903, as amended and made under that Act, should be consulted. Legislation and regulations change from time to time so it is essential that the most current versions be used.

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